Processed foods and milk products also differ with regard to the class of consumer they cater to.

(c) Excise duty on processed food industry is not being removed because of its nominal rate. Similarly, excise duty on packaging is not exempted because of its numerous uses other than food industry.

Modernisation of mini steel plants

2374. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1252 given in Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the group set up to recommend norms for modernisation of mini steel plants has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report is expected to be submitted within the next few weeks.

सूखे के कारण मौतें

2375. **श्री शरद यादव :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान उड़ीसा, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात और उत्तर प्रदेश में सूखे के कारण कितने-कितने व्यक्तियों की मौतें हुई और कितने लोग अपने घर छोड़कर अन्य स्थानों को गये ; और

(ख) इस प्रकार के लोगों का पुनर्वास करने की योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा) : (क) और (ख) सूखे के कारण व्यक्तियों की मौतें होने की सूचना किसी राज्य से प्राप्त नहीं हुई है, सूखे से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से अन्य स्थानों में जाने वाले व्यक्तियों की संख्या संबंधी जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है, तथापि केन्द्रीय सहायता से क्रियान्वित किए जा रहे सूखा राहत संबंधी कार्यक्रमों की दृष्टि से इस प्रकार के व्यक्तियों की संख्या सीमित होने की संभावना है ।

Central insecticides board

2376. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that members of the Registration Committee of the Central Insecticides Board are on pay-rolls of certain Pesticides Manufacturing Companies and are frequently visiting their guest houses, using their fleet of cars, enjoying other unwarranted hospitalities in Delhi and other places as reported in a section of Pesticides industry magazines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Executives of such Companies are also frequently visiting the members of the Registration Committee at their offices and residences; and

(c) whether Government referred the entire issue to the Central investigating agency, if so, what are the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Government has not received any such complaint.

(c) The question does not arise.